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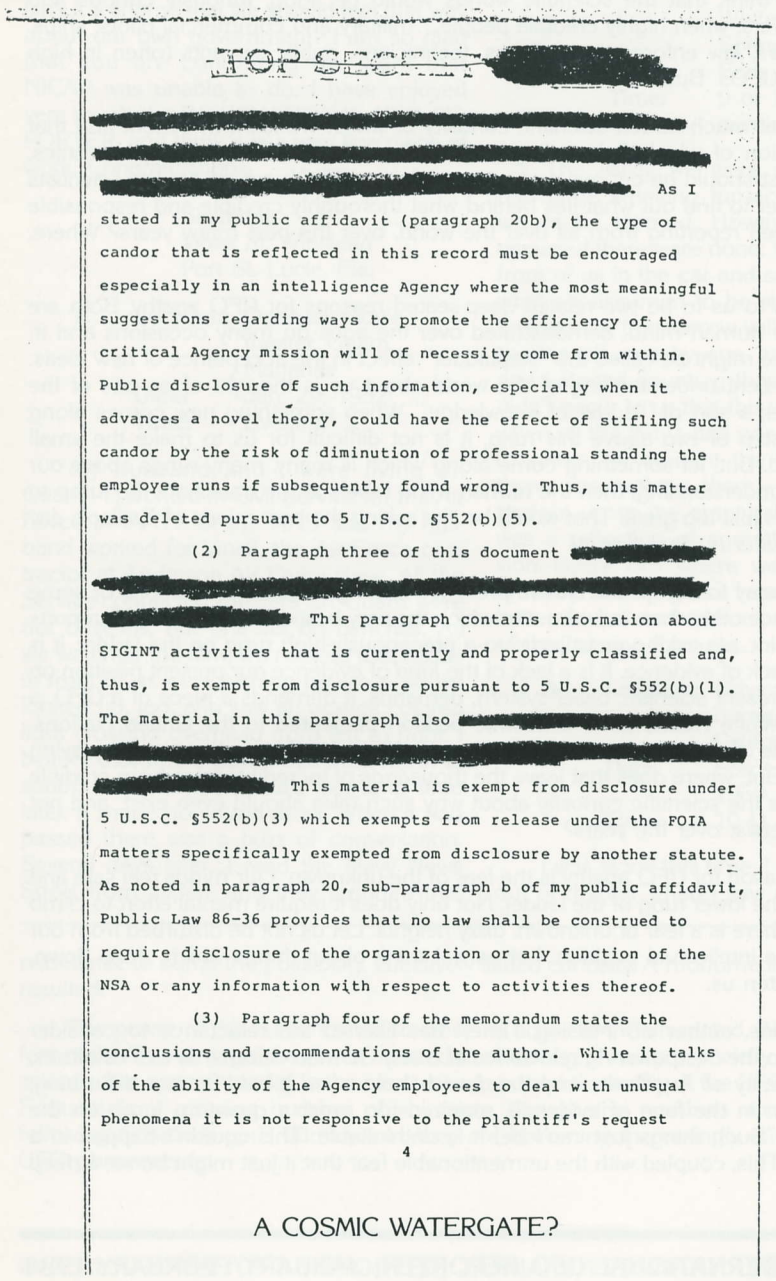

TOP SECRET [redacted]

[redacted]. As I stated in my public affidavit (paragraph 20b), the type of candor that is reflected in this record must be encouraged especially in an intelligence Agency where the most meaningful suggestions regarding ways to promote the efficiency of the critical Agency mission will of necessity come from within. Public disclosure of such information, especially when it advances a novel theory, could have the effect of stifling such candor by the risk of diminution of professional standing the employee runs if subsequently found wrong. Thus, this matter was deleted pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(5).

(2) Paragraph three of this document [redacted] This paragraph contains information about SIGINT activities that is currently and properly classified and, thus, is exempt from disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(1). The material in this paragraph also [redacted] This material is exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(3) which exempts from release under the FOIA matters specifically exempted from disclosure by another statute. As noted in paragraph 20, sub-paragraph b of my public affidavit, Public Law 86-36 provides that no law shall be construed to require disclosure of the organization or any function of the NSA or any information with respect to activities thereof.

(3) Paragraph four of the memorandum states the conclusions and recommendations of the author. While it talks of the ability of the Agency employees to deal with unusual phenomena it is not responsive to the plaintiff's request

4

A COSMIC WATERGATE?

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL
J. Allen Hynek

THE LIGHT AND THE RING
Mark Remaley

OUT OF THE PAST:
An Incredible Light
Mark Rodeghier

CONDON CONFRONTATION CONTINUES
J. Allen Hynek

A COSMIC WATERGATE?
UFOs and Government Coverup
J. Allen Hynek

BOOK REVIEW
UFOS and OUTER SPACE MYSTERIES:
A Sympathetic Critic's Report
Mark Rodeghier

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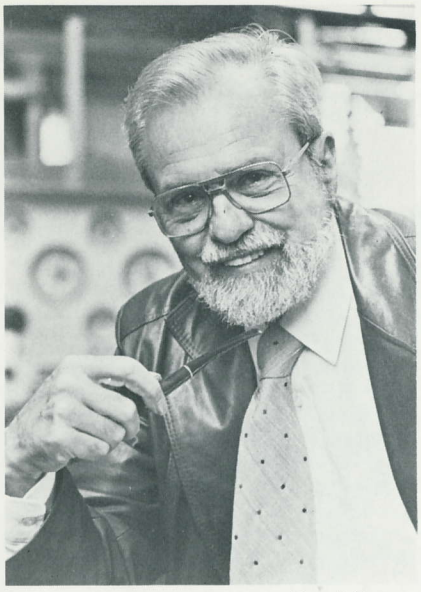

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EDITORIAL

Two Great Mysteries of Ufology

There are two great mysteries in Ufology. The first is obvious: "What are UFOs?" What lies behind the thousands of 'Incredible Tales from Credible People'? The second great mystery, one to which we have paid very little heed, is "Why the apathy to the UFO Phenomenon?"

Let's look at this second mystery. Here we have a subject which has touched the lives of a great many people all over the world, one that has been a ready topic of conversation for decades, and a subject about which so much has been written in books, articles, newspapers, and which has often been featured in movies, radio, and TV. How is it possible that virtually no serious attention has been paid to it by the scientific community, that no funds have been available for its study, whereas funds have been available for the study of matters that have gained far less public attention? There seem to be research grants available for the study of almost anything. But, for UFOs? None at all.

One would think that the scientific worlds would be agog, furiously curious and anxious for answers, when highly credible people...military and commercial pilots, ships' officers, engineers, law enforcement officers, technicians, public servants (often in high places)...report UFOs. But, no.

Where is that much-lauded scientific curiosity of which we learn in school and that scientific obligation of which Schroedinger, the father of modern quantum mechnics, wrote: "A scientist should be curious and eager to find out"? Oh, where are the scientists curious and eager to find out what lies behind what thoroughly credible and responsible persons have been reporting from all over the world, over the past many years? Where, indeed?

There seem to us to be two related deep-seated reasons for UFO apathy. Both are properties of the human mind, demonstrated over the ages on many occasions and in many guises. One might be called the "stepladder" effect in the acceptance of new ideas. Suppose our present understanding of the world about us is thought of as one of the rungs of a ladder, a sort of "ladder of knowledge." When something new comes along which is just a step or two above this rung, it is not difficult for us to make the small transition upward. But, let something come along which is many, many rungs above our present level of understanding, then the human mind rebels at the transition; the jump to the higher rung is just too great. That would be like asking the best minds of Galileo's day to seriously consider nuclear energy.

Asking us today to accept the elusive presence among us of manifestations of some form of intelligence other than our own...to which the very best-documented UFO reports unmistakably point...is asking us to jump to a precariously-high rung on the ladder. It is *not* a matter of lack of evidence. It is a lack of the *kind* of evidence our present position on the ladder, our present scientific belief system, demands. It demands a piece of a UFO, a landing on the White House lawn, a cosmic petition presented to the United Nations. Lacking these, the UFO phenomenon is dismissed as inadmissible on the present playing field of science. But, where does that leave the thousands of incredible tales from credible people? Where is the scientific curiosity about why such tales should even exist. and not only exist, but persist over the years?

A second reason for UFO apathy is the fear of the unknown. Our minds feel safe and comfortable on the lower rung of the ladder. Not only does it require mental effort to climb higher, but also there is a fear of unknown, dizzy heights. Let us not be disturbed from our cozy, comfortable intellectual position. Let us not think about things which, deep down, disturb and frighten us.

Budd Hopkins, author of "Missing Time," has likened the reluctance to consider UFOs seriously to the overpowering reluctance of many German citizens, as well as others, to accept the reality of Auschwitz and the Jewish holocaust. It was far too disturbing; acceptance, even in the face of evidence, required too great a quantum jump on the ladder of belief. "Such things just can't be! It is unthinkable. This couldn't happen in a civilized world!" This, coupled with the unmentionable fear that it just might be so, a deep

LETTERS

December 11, 1983

Dear Dr. Hynek:

Recently I requested a copy of the INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER, which I had missed (due to my not renewing my contribution when I should have) and your Lima office was quick to send me a copy.

The thought occurred to me that I might return the courtesy by reporting three experiences which I had of the UFO phenomenon. They are very old and I don't think would be of much interest to anyone today, but they might be part of the historical record. I have never reported them to anybody — certainly not the Government! Isn't it a shame that we should feel that way about our own government? I am so glad that you are continuing the work that NICAP was unable to do. I have enjoyed very much the INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER, and think it is a very fine piece of work. Congratulations.

Sincerely,
Violet M. Winstead
Port St. Lucie, Fla.

1. **Location:** Open-air movie theater, Guam, Marianas
   Date: Jan. 29, 1952
   Time: Evening

My husband and I were living on Guam — I worked in Civil Service for the Air Force in MATS at the NAS and my husband worked for Vinell, the Air Force contractor at Anderson Air Force Base. All the Service-connected theaters on Guam were not drive-ins, but one sat on benches. As we watched the film, we noticed that heads in front of us were turning upwards, so we looked up, too, and saw an orange colored light crossing overhead from left to right. I believe that would have been from north to south, but cannot be sure this long time later. It made no sound at all. When it had passed there was a buzz of conversation. Several days later, I read the Navy News Sheet from Japan, and they reported that two Army bombers had seen what we had seen. We checked our little movie schedule and found out that it was the same night we had seen the UFO — Jan. 29. Recently I checked the NICAP publication THE UFO EVIDENCE, 1964 and on page 20 it is listed as of 1-29-52. Going further, I checked it in NICAP's USAF PROJECTS GRUDGE AND BLUEBOOK REPORTS 1-12 (declassified) 1968, and this gave a more (p.77) complete report. However, I have not heard of the sighting being reported from Guam.

2. **Location:** Valley in West Virginia on the road somewhere between Charleston and White Sulphur Springs
   Date: Early June, 1952
   Time: 9 or 10 in the evening

The valley we were driving through had large smelting furnaces, I think they would be termed. However, where this occurred there were none. We looked up in front of us in the car and saw a number of what we assumed to be street lights on a bridge over this narrow valley. They started turning off, one by one, and my husband and I started counting them just for fun. It didn't occur to us that this was odd. Finally, when all the lights had gone out, we came to where we thought the bridge was but there was nothing there — we could look straight up to the empty sky. Perhaps this was a reflection of something — an inversion layer? But where were these plain, ordinary street lights? I could understand better if what we had seen were the flames of the burning furnaces.

3. **Location:** Driveway of our home in Glendale, California
   Date: Some time between 1960 and 1963
   Time: 10-11 p.m.

I was alone this time; I was just getting out of my car when I saw a green light in the sky, bright and falling, just like most meteors, I suppose. It had no train. Suddenly, it exploded. Perhaps because I had never seen such, I felt a real horror, and said aloud, "Oh, NO!"

This sounds very silly, but I felt as if something, or someone, was being destroyed. I looked up in the Encyclopedia Britannica (the new edition, which I do not like very much) their "Text" article on meteors, and I quote, Vol. 12, p. 36, "Almost anywhere along the trajectory, the meteoroid may start to crumble and fragment. A sudden breakdown of the solid structure may produce one or more luminous bursts, and a bright terminal burst frequently appears at the end of the visible path." I suppose this meteor was quite a large one. Incidentally, there were no other luminous bursts. □

reluctance to admit the possibility, effectively stifled curiosity. A monumental mental block resulted.

The power of the human mind to close its doors to the unwanted, the unknown, the fear of the "too strange" has been attested to all through history, especially in the history of science. It is apparent today in the reluctance to accept the reality of the UFO phenomenon. Fortunately, a growing number of scientists, though the numbers are yet small, are following Schroedinger's admonition; they are becoming increasingly curious about the UFO phenomenon.

VOL. III of JOURNAL OF UFO STUDIES Now Available

The Center for UFO Studies is pleased to announce that is has just published the third volume of the Journal of UFO Studies. This volume contains:

THE EFFECTS OF POSITION AND DISTANCE IN UFO IGNITION-INTERFERENCE CASES
Donald A. Johnson

RELATIVISTIC LIMITS TO RELATIVISTIC TRAVEL
David Finkelstein

RESULTS OF SOUND SPECTRUM ANALYSIS OF THE METALLIC NOISES OF A TAPE-RECORDED RADIO TRANSMISSION BETWEEN CESSNA VH:DSJ AND THE FLIGHT SERVICE OF MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
Richard F. Haines

SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, Part II
Bruce Maccabee

PERCIPIENT STUDIES
Mark Moravec

DIMENSIONAL CONCEPTS IN RELATION TO UFOs, BIGFOOT, AND THE LOCH NESS MONSTER
Jon Beckjord

SCIENTISTS' SELECTION OF NEW RESEARCH TOPICS: UFOs vs. SETI
David W. Swift □

THE LIGHT AND THE RING

TYPE: CE-II
DATE: Aug. 26, 1983
TIME: 4:00 A.M.
DURATION: 3-5 minutes
WITNESSES: 2
PLACE: Cedar Lake, IN.

Mark Remaley

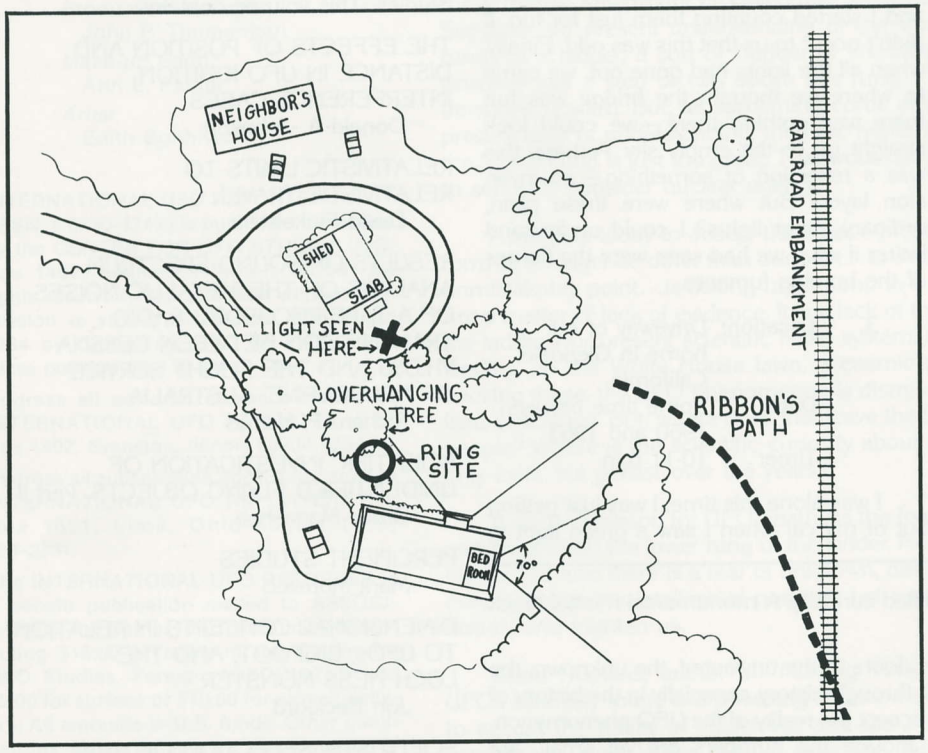
Editor's note: This interesting sighting was referred directly to CUFOS by the witnesses. It concerns two aspects of the UFO phenomenon familiar to all ufologists but often reported separately: an intense light in close proximity to the witnesses and a circular ring of destroyed vegetation, clearly marked. In this case the discovery of the ring occurred five days after the luminous display, but the chance that these were unrelated is very small. The witnesses were an elderly couple who had lived here for over 30 years. They had cleared the ground themselves and were familiar with every inch of the territory, but had never before observed either of these two phenomena. Although the light was brilliant, it was not blinding, and had an object been present, it ought to have been seen. It was not seen; its presence was only assumed.

Mr. Remaley, CUFOS investigator whose work has appeared in these pages before, undertook to investigate this UFO report. He did his usual thorough job; numerous photographs, measurements and extensive soil samples were taken. Unfortunately, funds have not been available to process the samples in the way they deserve to be analyzed. [If any reader knows of persons associated with soil testing laboratories who might be persuaded to initiate such tests at, preferably, a nominal cost, please communicate with the Center for UFO Studies.] The witnesses were perplexed, to put it mildly, by such totally unfamiliar events and sought assurance that they were not the only ones ever to have had such an experience. On two occasions I also interviewed the witnesses in lengthy phone conversations and concur with Mr. Remaley that Mr. and Mrs. Zurawski are an unassuming country couple who suddenly experienced for a few moments something utterly foreign to their lives up to that time. Mr. Zurawski remains puzzled and non-committal; to Mrs. Zurawski the event has taken on the aspects of a religious experience, and is certainly something she makes no attempt to explain. Mr. Remaley's report, based on an on-the-site interview on Sept. 15, 1983, follows.

On Aug. 26, 1983, Mrs. Zurwaski was awakened by brilliant flashes of light reflecting off the trees to the east of her house (see photo of view from bedroom window and diagram of house and yard). Still not fully awake, she nonetheless noticed that the light was of an unusual, white color. Thinking at once that it was lightning outside, and since a particularly violent lightning storm had hit the local area only two days before, she arose to unplug some electrical appliances in the living room, especially the TV set. As she walked toward the front door and window (see diagram) she realized the light was more of a glow than a flash and that its color now was very strange: "Reddish...all mixed up colors, golden, yellowish, vaporish. I thought, 'My Heavens, what a horrible scene out there,' but I didn't stop to really look at it then. I simply thought it was a funny storm or something..."

It was as she began to walk past the front door to return to the bedroom that she "first realized something was wrong." The screen on the front door seemed flooded with light. the glow seemed to be in the atmosphere itself and "the light was so intense it seemed like it wanted to push right through the door." It was like a powerful golden spotlight shining through a heavy mist, and then she realized, "Oh my gosh, that's not lightning!" She became very frightened. "I knew it was something weird and not natural. I never heard any thunder. I realized that this was no storm." At this point she panicked and rushed back to her bedroom colliding in the doorway with Mr. Zurawski, pushing him aside without a word and diving under the bedcovers.

Mr. Zurawski said he didn't know what awakened him, but he also thought at first that the lights were from a thunderstorm. He listened for the thunder but all he heard was a sound like that of something brushing through the trees. He had, perhaps, a better view of the event, at least the latter part, than did his wife. He described seeing a flash that lasted several seconds and lit up the ground very clearly, but didn't seem to cast any shadows. Between the flashes, he indicated, it was completely dark outside. There is conflicting testimony here, not overly serious, but troublesome. Repeated questioning didn't help settle the matter of whether there was one major



This diagram shows the location of the bedroom, from which Mrs. Zurwaski saw the flashes of light, location of the light and the ring, and the path of the ribbon of light.

flash which continued to glow or whether there were several flashes with darkness in the interim. The Zurawskis couldn't get their stories straight on this, but they both insisted that the light was not from a storm and that it had a very peculiar appearance, as though it originated in a luminous vapor. In fact, when asked as to what he would put out in the yard to best simulate the light, Mr. Zurawski replied "a yellow vapor." When each was asked separately what thing about their experience would stand out in their memories during coming years, Mrs. Zurawski replied, "The glow that penetrated the door...I was so frightened because it was so close to me. I was only about three feet away from the open doorway. The yellow glow penetrating through the screen like it was trying to reach me...that's how I felt." Mr. Zurawski replied, "The light, the rustle in the trees and the reflector." The latter referred to the only distinct light that had been seen...as apart from the flashes and the glow...it appeared as though coming from a large reflector one can find on cars or on highways. It appeared to be about 150 to 200 feet away, across the yard.

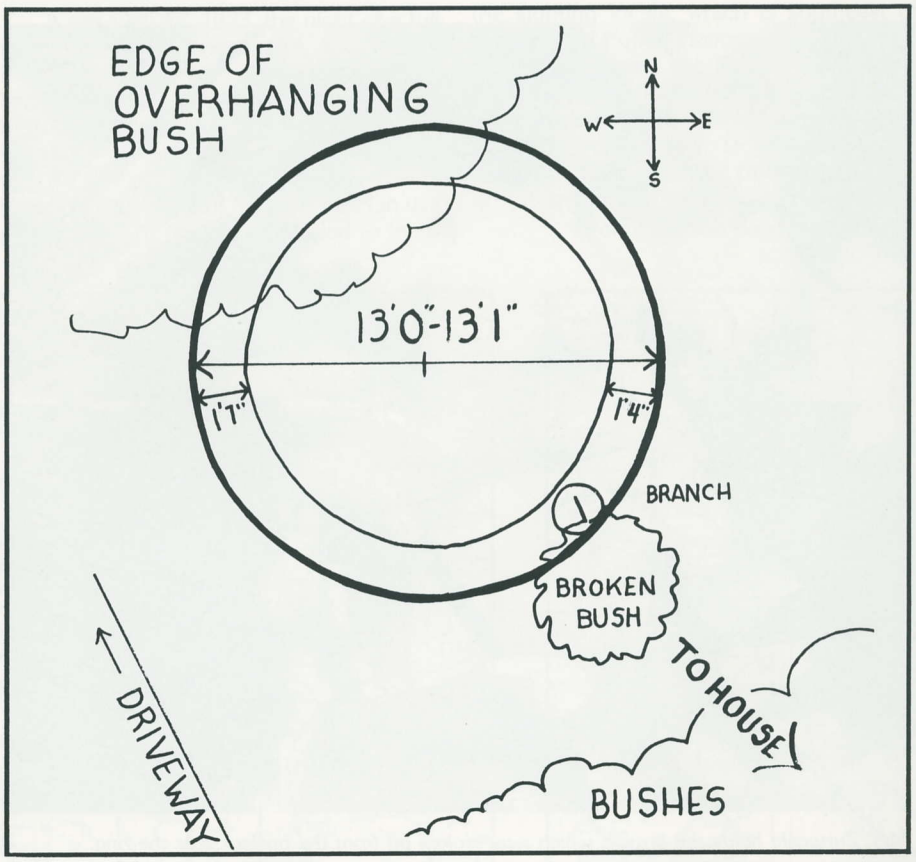
The only reference to an object during the entire event comes at this point in the story. When Mr. Zurawski moved to the picture window, he indicated that he saw the object illuminated by the light and hovering 4 or 5 feet off the ground. Mrs. Zurawski made no mention of this, but she was now peering out from under the covers, and looking out through the east bedroom window. She first heard a "big swoosh, another shorter swoosh, and then a funny little crackle, and she thought 'that's not a tornado wind'!" The sound seemed to move upward. "then, I saw a band of light, like a ribbon, kind of wavy, going southeast, and I said, 'that's not lightning. It doesn't lightning like that.'"

It was at this time that she first thought of UFOs.

The field of view from the window is estimated to be 70 degrees horizontally (ENE to SE) and 30 to 70 degrees above the horizon. Based on Mrs. Zurawski's description, the ribbon of light passed behind the near group of trees (see diagram) 15 to 35 yards from the house, then moved in front of the next stand of trees, 125 yards away, and, finally, behind the railroad tracks. From her description of the angular extent of the object, I estimate the vertical diameter to have been approxi-

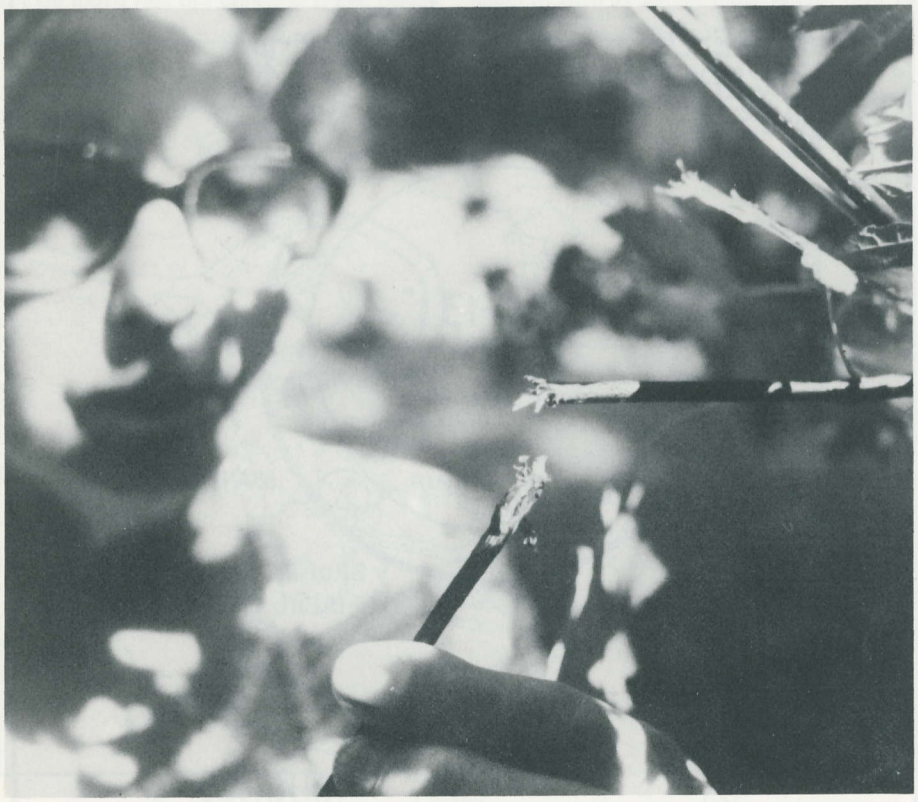
(Continued on page 6)

Mrs. Zurwaski stands at the edge of the ring (see diagram) which was between an overhanging tree and a bush. In an enlarged section of the diagram at left, the diagram below shows the ring, measuring between 13 feet and 13 feet, 1 inch in diameter. The ring width varied from 1 foot, 4 inches to 1 foot, 7 inches.



Light and Ring — continued

This is the view from the bedroom window — an estimated 70 degrees horizontally from E.N.E. to S.E. and 30 to 70 degrees above the horizon — through which Mrs. Zurwaski saw the ribbon of light move.



Mrs. Zurwaski holds the branch which was broken off from the bushes near the ring.

mately 10 to 12 feet across, but the horizontal dimensions are indeterminate, since the light extended beyond the entire width of the window. The light disappeared; Mrs. Zurawski was unable to recall whether the "light-ribbon" moved out of view or simply vanished. More importantly, the associated sound seemed to originate from the place where the ring was later discovered.

The Ring

The ring itself was found in front of the house about 40 feet away (see diagram) in an area seemingly inaccessible to any aerial object of appreciable size. One half of the ring diameter was well within an area of overhanging limbs (25 feet above the ground). On the other side was a large bush, from which a small branch had been broken off (see photograph). This was the only branch that hung over the ring-site. Because of the arrangement of trees and bushes, had an object of approximately 10 to 15 feet diameter been in their yard, its only exit from that area would have been along the course Mrs. Zurawski said the "ribbon of light" took.

Physically, the ring was almost a perfect circle, its outer diameter varying between 13 feet and 13 feet, 1 inch. The width of the doughnut ring varied from 1 foot, 7 inches on the west side to 1 foot 4 inches on the opposite side. Within the ring itself, the grass was completely dead, in contrast to the grass growing around it.

The usual explanations offered for mysterious rings of this sort do not seem to apply here. Fairy rings do not fit the description. Certainly, dead grass in the well-defined ring (with the surrounding grass left undisturbed) in an area which for years had been entirely normal, is extremely puzzling, even in the absence of the unexplained lights. Furthermore, over the years, no building, tank or device had been located in that spot.

The next step is to have the samples laboratory-tested. I am assured by CUFOS that this will be done as soon as it becomes feasible, with the results published in the INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER. It will be interesting to note if new growth occurs within the ring next Spring.

One additional note: the Zurawski dog, to the best of their knowledge, did not react to the light and swishing sounds. It is not certain just where the dog was at the time of the incident. □

OUT OF THE PAST: An Incredible Light

by Mark Rodeghier

Our knowledge of the UFO phenomenon often is based on the most fortuitous circumstance. A random meeting or chance encounter with a witness can lead to the unveiling of a long-hidden report. Here is such a case, one which occurred over ten years ago. Following a lecture in Boulder, Colorado, recently, Dr. Hynek met a lone witness. He was impressed with the sincerity and straightforward manner of the man and his account of the sighting, but was unable to conduct any investigation. Dr. Richard Sigismond kindly agreed to do a follow-up interview for the record and investigate the sighting as much as possible at this late date.

The event described below occurred during the last great UFO wave in the United States in 1973. Yet, the witness had never come forward to report his experience until he found himself with the perfect opportunity. How many other important and interesting events are unreported? Estimates are that only one in ten UFO sightings is reported to any authority, and even fewer than that are recorded in the UFO literature. Piecing together the UFO puzzle is made even more difficult by the existence of these literally thousands upon thousands of unreported sightings.

We are, therefore, fortunate that the present sighting has finally seen the light of day; it is a valuable case, despite the fact that there was only one witness. Both Hynek and Sigismond were impressed with the intellignece and precision with which the witness related his experience. Moreover, as has been noted so many times previously, if a witness wished to tell a "tall tale," why such a bland one? Why not include electromagnetic effects or humanoids or UFO chases with paralyzing light beams in their accounts? The reason, of course, is that almost all individuals who report a sighting are simply explaining, to the best of their recollection, what they experienced. They, also, remain puzzled.

TYPE: CE-I
DATE: Oct. 12, 1973
TIME: About 4:00 A.M.
DURATION: 5-10 minutes
WITNESSES: One, flying a light plane
PLACE: Central eastern Arizona

It was Oct. 12, 1973, the night of a full moon. Mr. TR (name on file at CUFOS), then 26 years of age, was a commercial, instrument-rated pilot. (Today he is a flight instructor.) He lived then in Leadville, Colorado, flying to various locations in the western United States and Mexico, depending upon the nature of his business. On this particular night he was scheduled to fly to northern Mexico to pick-up some cargo and return it to Colorado.

TR recalls that the weather was beautiful: crisp, clear, and not a cloud in the sky. With the full moon in view, he was able to see all his surroundings quite clearly and thus had no difficulty navigating through the mountains. Flying a Piper Cherokee 6, he left Leadville around 2 a.m. and travelled south to Albuquerque, then turned directly west towards Phoenix. He crossed the Arizona-New Mexico border near the St. John VOR (Very-high frequency omnirange radio) signal at about 4 a.m. The flight had been uneventful.

As he was passing Mt. Baldy to the south (elevation 11,900 feet), flying at an altitude of 2,500 feet over the ground, he spotted a red flashing light on the ground. The light attracted his attention because he knew that there were "no roads, radio towers, homes, or buildings" in this area. (A check of the map reveals the isolation of the sighting locale, which is southeast of the Petrified Forest National Park.) He continued flying past the light for about two minutes, but curiosity got the better of him and he executed a 180° turn to examine the light more closely. TR thought, at this point, the light might be from a helicopter on the ground.

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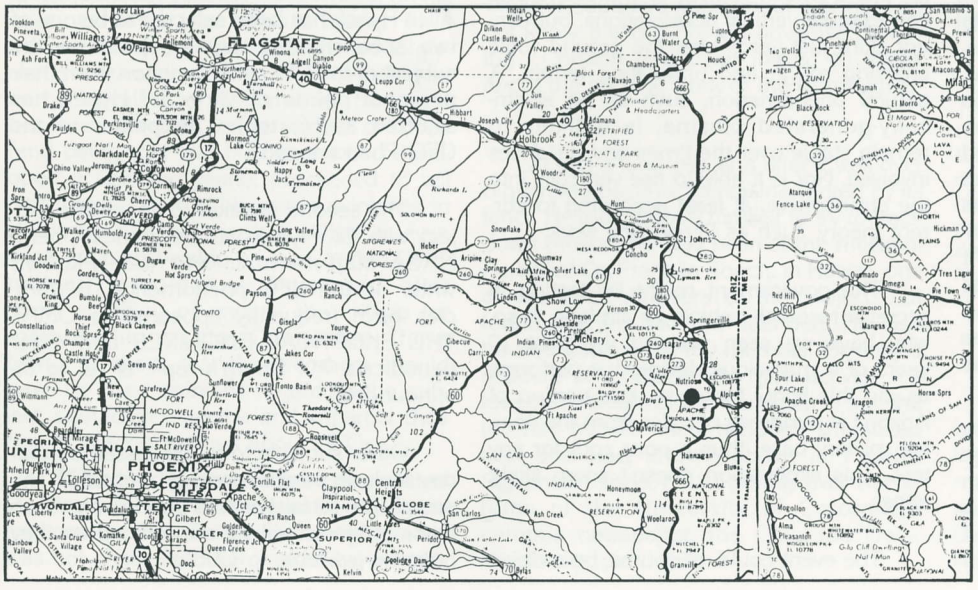
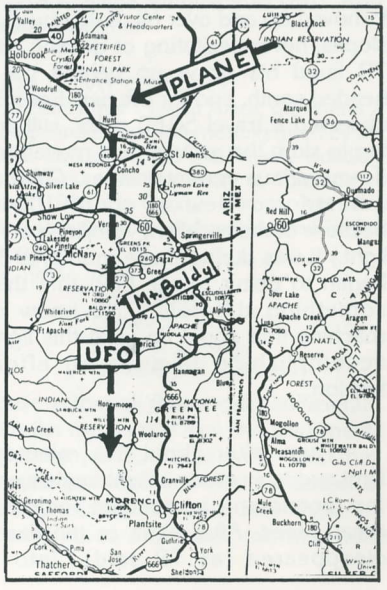




Light — cont.

Just as he finished his turn, the light began to move toward the south and instantaneously reached a speed TR estimated to be about that of his plane, 170 mph. The light appeared about twice as luminous as a standard rotating beacon on a plane or helicopter, flashing regularly at approximately 2 second intervals, a pattern which remained constant throughout the sighting.

The instantaneous acceleration was amazing, but even more so was what TR now observed. In his own words: "It appeared to be skimming over the ground ...any time there was even the most subtle undulation or elevation change, it would follow that change...my perception is that at no time did it even have any elevation... at all times it was skimming the ground." From 2,500 feet overhead it is difficult to be absolutely positive about altitude, but TR believes his perception to be correct, especially because of the non-level flight of the light.

Very intrigued now, TR put his plane into an intercept course with the light, diving down to convert altitude to air speed. He planned to buzz the light to determine just what it was. Within a few seconds of his change of course, the light accelerated instantaneously to about 800 mph, continuing on a path due south. At this point, the light had entered the Apache Indian Reservation, land that is quite sparsely populated. It moved up and over Mt. Baldy, hugging its slopes, never hesitating or gaining altitude. TR lined his plane up behind the light, headed south, and for the next few minutes observed it travel 50-60 miles, still appearing to skim the ground as it moved up and down various mountainsides. (TR had an unrestricted view of about 100 miles because of the excellent visibility and moonlight.) It was during these moments that "It began to occur to me (TR) that this was something different." He knew of no machine that could do what this light was accomplishing in such an effortless fashion.

Then, after about five minutes, the light suddenly made a right angle turn from the ground and accelerated vertically to a great speed. After eight or ten flashes, it disappeared (as TR said) "into outer space." He has watched a launch of a rocket from Cape Canaveral and says that there is no comparison: the light had a speed "much greater than the rocket" and travelled straight into the atmosphere as if unaffected by gravity.

Nothing remained to be seen after the light had vanished, so TR resumed his flight. He did, however, have a feeling of elation, as he believed he had "seen something that was not of this earth." TR is convinced that the light (it never appeared to him as anything but that) was reacting directly to him, perhaps retreating rather than risking any close encounter with him. Neither before nor since has he seen anything remotely akin to what he observed that October night in 1973.

Analysis

Several aspects of the present case parallel details of many other events and make this single witness report more convincing. The light displayed intelligence by reacting to TR just as he changed his course. It "skimmed over the ground" with essentially no altitude, as reported in other cases. No earthly machine can accomplish such a feat. Its "instantaneous acceleration," a classic feature of countless numbers of cases, is startling and inexplicable. It rose straight into the air and vanished, as if leaving the earth.

What might this light have been? A helicopter could perhaps explain the first half of the sighting, but surely not the second. A VTOL (vertical take-off and landing) jet, like a British Harrier, is impressive and can execute vertical accelerations, but cannot skim just yards over the ground while crossing rough and undulating terrain. A natural phenomenon, such as an electrically-generated plasma, is unlikely to remain stable over the times and distances involved. Nor is it able to rise vertically into the atmosphere, at least according to current theory, such as Persinger's work.

The government might be testing in secret a research vehicle or airplane. If so, why have we seen nothing the past 10 years of a marvelous device that performs as did this light? Moreover, this portion of Arizona is hundreds of miles from the nearest military base, thus a poor spot for any test. This explanation doesn't seem likely, either.

The event could, of course, be a clever hoax by TR, but that is doubtful. Listening to his articulate and matter-of-fact report, one comes to the conclusion that, as with so many other witnesses, credible people are seeing incredible things. TR is intelligent, open, and puzzled: he feels he may have seen something "not of this earth," but he doesn't embellish his account.

We are left with another inexplicable event, involving characteristics — instantaneous acceleration, flight at zero altitude, no visible power source — which we cannot duplicate with our present technology. Consider, too, this question: what was that light "doing" at night in the middle of an unpopulated area in Arizona, and why did it seemingly flee as TR flew closer? How many other such lights have appeared in similar deserted locales unseen by human eyes? We do not know. Nor may we ever know until many more individuals such as TR step forward and make public their own personal encounters with the UFO phenomenon. □

A.A.A.S. Meeting To Include UFO Phenomenon Talks

The 1984 Annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, scheduled to be held in New York City on May 29, 1984, will include a day of sessions devoted to topics generally referred to as "on the borderland" of the formal sciences.

In an invitation recently received, Dr. J. Allen Hynek has been selected to be one of two speakers that day to speak on the subject of the UFO phenomenon from their personal points of view. Dr. Hynek has selected as his topic, "Properties of the UFO Phenomenon."

The second speaker to share this subject with Dr. Hynek will be James Oberg, NASA staff-member and widely-known writer on the UFO phenomenon. His articles have frequently appeared in OMNI, THE SKEPTICAL ENQUIRER and other periodicals. Mr. Oberg's topic is yet to be announced.

Other subjects to be discussed on that day include parapsychology and SETI, the search for extraterrestrial life. Speakers on those subjects will be announced as they become available to CUFOS. □

Condon Confrontation Continues

Unexpected responses were generated by Richard Sigismond's article, "A Confrontation with Dr. Condon," in the Sept.-Oct. issue. One, a letter from Dr. Thornton Page, astronomer with NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, (see p. 15) is a significant addendum to the historical record of the role of Dr. Condon in the UFO controversy. We appreciate Dr. Page's candor.

We learned of another, and quite different, response to the Sigismond article as a result of a recent visit to his home in Boulder, Colorado. A UFO-scoffer, well-known to ufologists, engaged Mr. Sigismond in a long telephone confrontation, the tone of which led Mr. Sigismond to conclude that his veracity was being challenged and that the caller implied that perhaps the lecture, central to the Sigismond article, had never taken place (although the latter was never explicitly stated).

Here is a resume of the story told me by Mr. Sigismond, my memory greatly aided by a recording of my conversation with him. I shall try to use Mr. Sigismond's own words to me whenever possible, to preserve his account of the flavor of the telephonic encounter. Since no recording of the original conversation was made at Mr. Sigismond's end, the following is based solely on his vivid recollection of the conversation in question.

The reader will remember that the gist of Mr. Sigismond's article was that he had applied for a position on the Condon Committee (for the scientific study of UFOs), had been accepted, and then after a confrontation with Dr. Condon had, on his own, refused the appointment. This account had apparently bothered Sigismond's questioner who, after inquiring in some detail how Sigismond had first become interested in the subject of UFOs (and being told that his interest had developed across the years), proceeded to tell him that because of his previous interest in UFOs he had not been qualified to even apply for membership on the Condon Committee! He quoted to Sigismond, after some shuffling of papers, the criteria for membership on the Committee, these being, in short, that the members should have no fixed opinions regarding the subject, should be objective and impartial, thus free of preconceptions about UFOs.

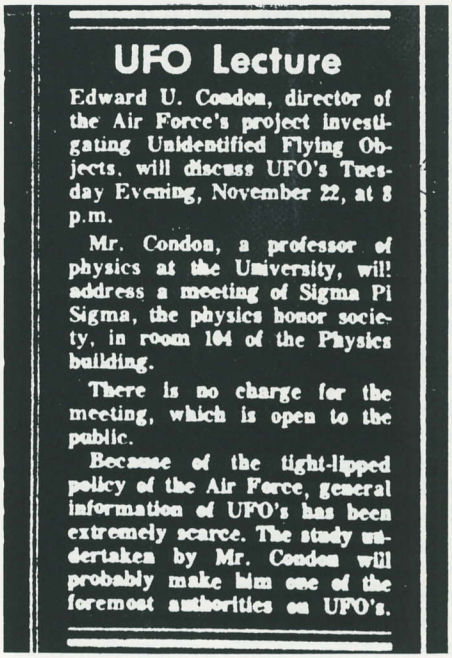
Sigismond's retort: in that case, neither Dr. Condon nor Mr. Low had been eligible for membership! This response apparently was not challenged but passed by with the remark that he would not care to vigorously defend Condon and his committee. Instead, this line of questioning was pursued: "Did they bring up this issue to you? ...Look, I'm asking for a simple yes or no." When Sigismund replied, "Look, that matter never came up," it was met with, "You mean they never brought it up?"

A bit later: "Now, I have taken the time and effort to call Dr. David Saunders...you know that Saunders was a senior member of the Committee...and he hadn't attended. Now, Sigismond, don't you think that Saunders would have known about this meeting? It is highly, highly unlikely that Saunders would not have heard about this meeting and not attended. Now, how can you explain that? Don't you think that is curious, Mr. Sigismond? Don't you think it is extremely curious that he wasn't at that meeting, and yet **you** were there?"

The accusative tone increasingly angered Sigismond, and he asked his inquisitor when had he been given the dispensation to behave like a prosecuting attorney? He asked, "Are you suggesting that I fabricated the whole story and that the meeting never took place?" His questioner quickly backed down.

As far as Dr. Saunders was concerned, Sigismond continued, he did not know why Saunders had not attended but, after all, it was an address to a Physics Honor Society composed partially of students, and undoubtedly Saunders was already quite familiar with Condon's views. "However, there was a meeting, it had occurred, and whether Saunders knew about it or not I do not know. It was a not-well-advertised meeting...Condon had been invited to speak about the coming work of the Committee."

It was a long call, and after it was over Sigismond became increasingly irked by its tenor. He took it upon himself to try to track down others who had been at the meeting. He called Dr. Franklin Roach, in Hawaii, one of the three directors of the project, but found that he had not attended. He also tracked down an APRO member, formerly a resident of Boulder, who had actively followed the affairs of the Committee, but she too had not attended, although she stated that she had known about it. Finally, Sigismond spent hours poring over microfilms of the University of Colorado's campus newspaper, the Colorado Daily, and finally found this:



UFO Lecture

Edward U. Condon, director of the Air Force's project investigating Unidentified Flying Objects, will discuss UFO's Tuesday Evening, November 22, at 8 p.m.

Mr. Condon, a professor of physics at the University, will address a meeting of Sigma Pi Sigma, the physics honor society, in room 104 of the Physics building.

There is no charge for the meeting, which is open to the public.

Because of the tight-lipped policy of the Air Force, general information of UFO's has been extremely scarce. The study undertaken by Mr. Condon will probably make him one of the foremost authorities on UFO's.

And then, serendipity entered. In the course of making copies of the above material, Sigismond found he needed change to operate the copying machine. Looking about the library, he espied a face that looked familiar, that of a former student at the University who now, years later, had returned to do work toward his doctorate in environmental geology. Asking each other what they were doing there, the former student, Mr. Axtell, asked about the meeting Sigismond was referring to: "You don't mean the meeting in the old Physics building that Dr. Gamow attended? I was at that meeting. If you need a statement that the meeting took place, I'll give it to you." And here is his statement:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
This is to certify that I, David Axtell, did attend a UFO lecture and discussion meeting given by Dr. Edward U. Condon in the old Physics Building on the campus of the University of Colorado in November, 1966. Dr. George Gamow was also present at this meeting and participated in the discussion.
Nov. 15, 1983

David Axtell
Graduate Div.
Dept. of Geology
University of Colorado

I believe that all this should sufficiently establish for the record that the said meeting did take place, despite the fact that many notables were not in attendance. It also firmly establishes the fact that Mr. Sigismond does not take intimidation lightly. □

A Cosmic Watergate?

by J. Allen Hynek

Government coverup of the subject of UFOs was the special focus of this year's University of Nebraska conference on "Exploring Unexplained Phenomena," held in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Nov. 11-13. Despite the strenuous objections of a well-known UFO scoffer directed to the administration of the University of Nebraska (which held its ground), the conference was brought off successfully and was well-attended. The second day of the conference was devoted entirely to the question of coverup. While the other two days were also of interest, I will restrict my comments to the coverup theme. This probably holds the greatest interest for our readers, and it proved to be of the greatest interest to the news media. The paper presented by Larry Fawcett on behalf of CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy) carried the main message of the day. It was concerned with the presentation of documentary evidence for the alleged government coverup. The question is, of course, to what extent the government documents so far released definitely establish such a coverup. (I wish to emphasize that the opinions expressed here are my own and not necessarily officially those of the Center for UFO Studies.)

First, "coverup" is a broad term and is capable of a wide spectrum of interpretation, ranging all the way from a sinister, deeply Machiavellian "cloak and dagger" operation, to simple lack of disclosure of information to the public for a variety of legitimate reasons. Between these extremes are other forms of coverup, and many reasons for them. There is coverup of ignorance, or of embarrassment, or, indeed, of incompetence. Where along this spectrum of coverup do Fawcett and CAUS believe the Government coverup of UFO information lies, and where does the evidence so far presented indicate that the coverup lies?

Fawcett's opening statement would indicate that CAUS believes it lies close to the far end, to the "cloak and dagger" type of coverup: "Certain official Government documents on the subject of UFOs give evidence that (1) some UFOs are unconventional aerial objects, (2) these unconventional aerial objects perform in ways that are beyond present-day technological developments, and (3) these unconventional objects with high performance characteristics have posed a threat to the national security of the United States and may have human survival implications as well."

Fawcett clearly outlined the form the coverup took. Briefly, it can be summed up in this way. On the one hand, the Government completely and publicly disavowed any serious concern with UFO reports and their contents [to such a degree that queries about UFOs and reports of UFOs were, and are, ignored or summarily dismissed] on the grounds that UFOs did *not* in any way affect national security, did *not* represent technological developments beyond present-day scientific knowledge, and that there was *no* evidence that UFOs represented interplanetary or interstellar craft. On the other hand that same Government and its military branches were, and still are, deeply concerned with UFOs precisely on the grounds that they *do* affect national security, citing this as the principal reason for refusal to release sensitive UFO related documents!

For the latter reason, Government concern with UFOs was to be kept from the public at all costs. "It is strongly urged, however, that no indication of CIA interest or concern reach the press or public in view of their probable alarmist tendencies to accept such as confirmatory," reports one of the many documents Fawcett presented as evidence of Government coverup.

The case of CAUS against the Government, as presented by Fawcett at the Nebraska Conference, rests almost entirely on an impressive number of documents obtained by CAUS members through repeated recourse to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Fawcett dealt at some length with the tortuous efforts by CAUS to get what material they did get. He described, at even greater length, CAUS' fruitless efforts to obtain those remaining UFO-related documents, discovered by virtue of the court actions which refused their release.

This story is particularly interesting. Documents which CAUS had good reason to believe were in the hands of the CIA and NSA (National Security Agency) were applied for through the FOIA mechanism. Their release was refused, whereupon CAUS' indefatigable legal counsel, Peter Gersten, (who has worked on their behalf as a labor of love now for many years) undertook court action. The lower court refused release of the documents, and this, in turn, was upheld by the Federal Court of Appeals, all on the grounds of "national security."

A direct quotation from the Court's statement of refusal states that the release of the documents "would seriously jeopardize the work of the agency (NSA) and the security of the United States." It was further noted that "public interest and disclosure is far outweighed by the sensitive nature of the material and the obvious effect on national security their release might entail."

Aware that release of those documents might reveal the methods and manner in which the UFO-related material was obtained and might, indeed, disclose matters affecting national security, CAUS was careful to specify that they requested *only* directly-related UFO material and had no desire to know the methods by which the information was obtained.

In reaching that verdict, the Court had access to a 21-page brief prepared by the NSA and presented to the Judge in his chambers. The Judge was required to obtain Top Secret clearance in order to be able to read this brief *in camera.* (Gersten was excluded, although the NSA Counsel was not.) Undaunted, CAUS took their case to the Supreme Court of the United States which, as expected, refused to hear it. Still undaunted, CAUS tried the FOIA route to get at the secret brief, and *they got it!*

One of the highlights of Fawcett's presentation occurred when he dramatically displayed the brief to the audience, page by page. Line after line had been blacked out, so much so that on most pages one saw nothing but black lines. (See illustration from June/July 1983 issue of CUFOS ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER.)

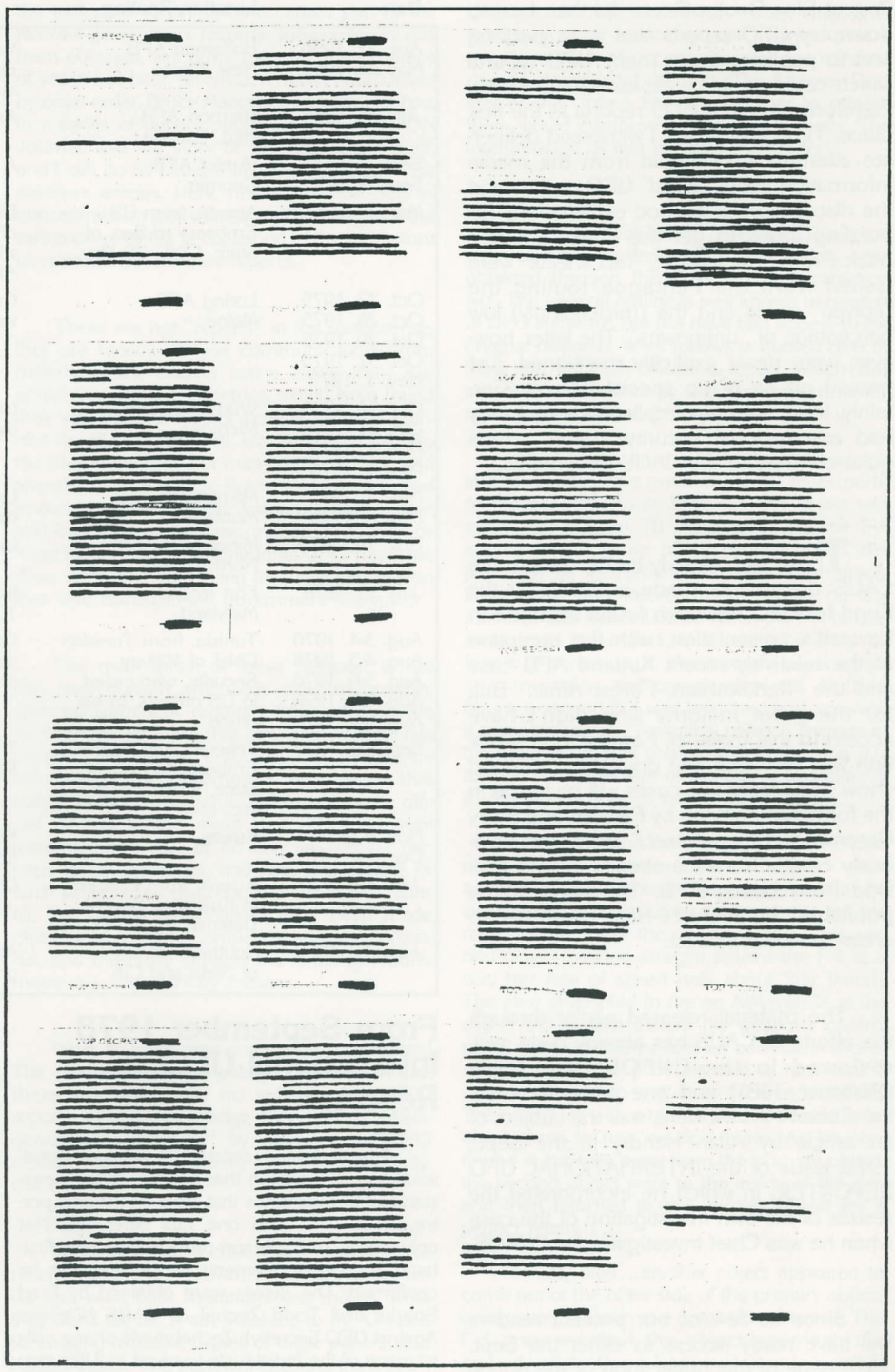
CAUS has not yet given up; further suits are being filed. But, what of those documents which *have* been released to CAUS (and which are available at nominal cost from the Fund for UFO Research)? In my opinion, while they constitute irrefutable proof of the concern which branches of our Government paid to the UFO question, they do not, in themselves, constitute proof of sinister plots to cover up what the government "knows and is not telling" about UFOs. Mr. Gersten, as a most competent lawyer, knows this and this is why he is seeking further court action. Perhaps, if we knew what was under all of those forbidding black lines...

Limiting ourselves to what CAUS has, what can be said? The picture is fairly damning, but what stands out in my mind is the striking confirmation of the thrust of our Editorial in this issue — the apathy with which the contents of the individual documents were regarded. It is almost unbelievable! In instance after instance, an air base, embassy or a military installation report of a UFO sighting by responsible people (a point that is often explicitly stated) is callously disregarded and, as far as we know, never followed up. Worst yet, the documents contain accounts of unknown craft penetrating a weapons area (e.g., a teletype from Loring AFB reporting that an "object demonstrated clear intent in the weapons storage area") which, apparently, were not followed up but fell prey to that same all-pervading apathy which has beset the scientific community in regard to UFOs. (It would almost seem that some "UFO Sandman" spreads "apathy powder" or some strange virus that causes us to dismiss the unpleasant implications of UFO reports.)

From the data at hand it would seem that each serious UFO report that came to the attention of the CIA, FBI or NSA was treated as an isolated incident, an oddity, something to be set aside as merely "one of those things" that no one knows how to tackle. Is, perhaps. the real coverup a coverup of ignorance and the embarrassment resulting from such ignorance? The military loves sharp, clear-cut answers to problems; they don't like persistent, gnawing mysteries, as Capt. Ed Ruppelt pointed out so well years ago in his book, "The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects."

(In my years with U.S. Air Force Project Blue Book, I can attest to the unspoken embarrassment that pervaded this project. Clearly, it would be bad for public relations for the Air Force to admit there were things going on in the air over which they claim mastery, which were potentially frightening and over which they could exercise no control. Far better to dismiss the whole thing as public hysteria, hallucinations, IFOs and even as subversive propaganda than to admit openly that they

(Continued on page 12)



These are samples of pages in the 21-page brief prepared by the NSA and released to CAUS.

UFOS AND GOVERNMENT COVERUP

had a problem that needed study and solution. So, following Pentagon guidelines, Project Blue Book officers did their best to downplay UFO reports that were puzzling and to publicize those many UFO reports which could easily be explained and which, therefore, were not UFO reports in the first place. Time and again, I witnessed deliberate attempts to withhold from the media information about "good" UFO reports and the distribution of ad hoc explanations for puzzling cases to get the media off their back. From time to time, "fact sheets" were issued from the Pentagon touting the "solved" cases and the (misleadingly) low percentage of "unknowns." The latter, however, were never explicitly mentioned, just passed off as of no special interest. Certainly, there were no implications that they had any national security import ...thus quite contrary to the CAUS documents.)

Those who already had access to the CAUS documents made available by the Fund for UFO Research found little new in Fawcett's presentation, with the exception of the relatively recent Kirtland AFB case and the "Rendlesham, Forest Affair." But, for the great majority who didn't have access to this material, Fawcett's presentation was revealing and dramatic...a "good show." The latter two cases will be found in the forthcoming book by Fawcett and Barry Greenwood, "Clear Intent," whose title obviously comes from the already quoted teletype from Loring AFB. The book, to be published by Prentice-Hall, promises to create national interest.

The material released earlier through the efforts of CAUS has already been well-reviewed in the CUFOS BULLETIN (Summer, 1981) and one particular case, the Cuban MIG incident, was the subject of an article by Allan Hendry in the Sept., 1978, issue of the INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER, in which he incorporated the results of his own investigation of the case when he was Chief Investigator for CUFOS.

Since so few of our present readers will have ready access to either the Sept. 1978 issue of this publication or the out-of-print Summer 1981 CUFOS BULLETIN, I think it appropriate to include here portions from both articles to better illustrate Fawcett's and CAUS' thesis as presented at the Nebraska conference.

SOME MILITARY MESSAGES CONCERNING UFOs

Date	Location/Routing	Nature of Message
Apr. 27, 1950 May 24, 1950	Holloman AFB New Mexico	Very brief description of sighting of "daylight disks," 30 ft. in diam., alt. 150,000 ft., traveling at undeterminable yet high speed.
July 26, 1955	Harmon AFB Nfld, Canada	An excellent radar-visual case.
Sept. 8, 1973 Sept. 9, 1973	Hunter AFB Georgia	A silent CE-I.
Mar. 7, 1975	Algeria, from US Embassy to Sec. of State, CINC US Nav	Dispatch concerning inquiry from Sec. General of Ministry of Defense about strange machines which had been maneuvering over Algerian airspace.
Oct. 27, 1975 Oct. 28, 1975 Oct. 29, 1975 Oct. 31, 1975 Nov. 1, 1975	Loring AFB Maine	Unidentified aircraft sighted at low level in vicinity of munitions storage area.
Oct. 30, 1975 Oct. 31, 1975 Nov. 1, 1975 Nov. 7, 1975	Wurtsmith AFB Michigan	Unidentified low-flying aircraft/helicopter(s) over housing and munitions storage areas.
Nov. 7, 1975 Nov. 8, 1975	Malmstrom AFB Montana	Unidentified aircraft in immediate vicinity of missile launch control facilities.
Nov. 10, 1975	Minot AFB North North Dakota	Unidentified aircraft over base.
July 30, 1976	Fort Ritchie, Maryland	Independent military persons reported UFO 100-200 yards over ammunition storage area.
Aug. 3-4, 1976 Aug. 4-5, 1976 Aug. 5-6, 1976 Aug. 7-8, 1976 Aug. 8-9, 1976	Tunisia, from Tunisian Chief of Military Security, who called in US officers, to his office.	Confirmed radar-visual sightings of UFOs observed from ground and air on five separate nights.
Sept. 19, 1976	Teheran, Iran, from US Embassy to Sec. of State, White House, etc., etc.	The spectacular F-4 radar-visual UFO "dog fight" encounter over Iran.
Nov. 9 to Dec. 14, 1978	Kuwait	Eight UFO sightings investigated without solution by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.
Jan. 21, 1979	Kuwait, from Embassy in Kuwait to Sec. of Defense, Wash., DC	UFO photographed over Kuwait City.
June 12, 1980	Southern Peru, Sec. of State and CIA	Attempt to intercept and destroy UFO unsuccessful.

From September 1978 International UFO Reporter...

The following account is as sensational-sounding as anything that appears in the newsstand UFO magazines that pass off fictional portrayals as fact...with one vital difference. Not only has a "real" person provided the tale, first-hand, but certain elements of the story can be confirmed. The details were obtained by Brad Sparks and Todd Zechel of CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy); Zechel made phone calls to many of the individuals involved in IUR's own office, most of which were monitored by Allan Hendry. The impact of this event is two-fold; first, the remarkable encounter of two Cuban MIG's with a UFO and, second, an equally remarkable encounter between an industrious UFO researcher and FBI agents.

The central figure in the original event was a security specialist assigned to the 6947th Security Squadron of the U.S. Air Force Security Service (AFSS) centered at Homestead Air Force Base just south of Miami. His story first came to light when he discussed it with UFO lecturer Stanton Friedman following one of Friedman's public appearances. Eventually, the story became widely disseminated as a UPI dispatch of Jan. 12 or 13 of 1978. The original source desires that his name be withheld.

"One day in March of 1967, the specialist was at Detachment A of the squadron, located at Key West Naval Station on Boca Chica Key, Florida, 97 miles away from the Cuban coastline. Several such squadrons are scattered geographically to enable direction-finding equipment to locate fixed or mobile land-based radar sites and communication centers and to plot aircraft movements via their flight transmissions as a safe-

guard against attack. The Spanish-speaking intercept operators heard Cuban air defense radar controllers report UFO approaching the island from the northeast. Once the UFO entered Cuban air space (660 m.p.h. at 33,000 feet), two MIG-21 jet fighters were scrambled to meet it. Guided by ground radar to within three miles of the "bogey," the pilots could visually resolve it as a bright metallic sphere with no marking or appendages. Radio contact attempts proved fruitless, so the flight leader was ordered by Cuban Air Defense Headquarters to destroy the object. The leader reported that his radar was locked on the UFO and his missiles were armed.

"Within seconds, the wingman screamed to the ground controllers that the flight leader's jet had exploded. Regaining his composure, he reported there was no smoke or flame, that his leader's MIG-21 had disintegrated. The Cuban radar operator watched the UFO rapidly accelerate and climb to above 100,000 feet. It was later tracked heading south-southeast toward South America.

"The AFSS unit was under NSA (National Security Agency) operational control so an Intelligence Spot Report was sent to NSA, a standard practice in cases of aircraft losses by hostile nations. When the 6947th's Detachment A did not receive the mandatory receipt for its dispatch, it sent another report. This time, they received orders to ship all tapes and pertinent data to NSA. They were also told to list the cause of the aircraft's destruction in their own files as "equipment malfunction." Fifteen to twenty people were said to have been aware of the incident at the detachment. Presumably, the data forwarded to NSA included direction-finding measurements which could potentially be used to triangulate the jets' positions. If the AFSS radar tracking equipment was sufficiently sensitive, the UFO itself *could* have been tracked by its reflection of Cuban radar waves. It is not known if our own U.S. radar tracked the jets or the UFO."

From Summer 1981 CUFOS Bulletin...

"The nature of the UFO controversy has changed dramatically over the past four years. There is now a new case for the UFO and the evidence for it is in government records."

That is how Peter Gersten, the spearhead in the legal battle currently being waged by a small but ardent group of ufologists directed against the bastions of government security agencies in an attempt to wrest from them whatever UFO-related materials they may have in their files, started his paper presented at the 1981 MUFON Symposium. It is this "new case" I want to evaluate here.

Much has been written about the legal battle itself. The Freedom of Information Act has been the tool used to pry open a certain part of the relevant government records; some material has been obtained, but other material, the existence of which has been revealed, remains undisclosed by court order. Bruce Maccabee in particular has, in a series of papers published in the MUFON Journal, told the story of the legal battle itself, and I can do no better than to refer you to those excellent articles. Here, however, I wish only to concentrate on just what actual evidence for the existence of UFOs is contained in the heretofore un-released government reports.

These are not "reports" in the usual sense; they are mostly teletype communications from military bases, and in some cases from our embassies in other countries, which have found their way into the files of various security agencies like the CIA, the FBI, etc. Some did get into the Blue Book files, but many more did not, and after the demise of Blue Book, some were leaked to the press, such as the Iranian jet-fighter case and the Florida radar case (treated extensively by Allan Hendry in the **International UFO Reporter,** June 1978, and containing far more information than that carried in the government teletypes).

The main thrust of these "reports" is not that they contain any really new information, differing from that reported from all over the world by civilians, but that they demonstrate two things quite clearly; one, that the intelligence echelons of the government were aware that truly puzzling "unknowns" did exist, despite official denials to the effect that *all* UFOs were imaginary and thus of no concern, except perhaps to psychologists, and two, that reports of such unidentified puzzlers (the U in UFO, after all, just means Unidentified) have been made officially by entirely competent military personnel, and thus fully support the kinds of reports made over the years by civilians.

What an interesting study in contradictions! The official stance for public consumption that there was absolutely no substance to UFO reports vs. the knowledge that military intelligence was "stumped" by many of the UFO reports made by admittedly competent, militarily-trained men.

Let us now take a critical look at what these recently released government papers really tell us, and what their limitations are; that is, what they don't tell us. (I am indebted to Mr. Gersten for making available copies of these papers, and I acknowledge that pertinent excerpts from them already appeared in his excellent MUFON paper; her I aim to bring into focus the essence of these papers, quite apart from the legal ramifications of the process used in obtaining them, and to place them into perspective with the total reported UFO phenomenon.)

Some three dozen separate incidents are involved in the above reports released under the Freedom of Information Act (often only after legal action). It must be kept in mind that a goodly number of documents were *not* released despite strong legal attempts. The Attorney General of the United States ruled that to release them would compromise National Security. The interpretation of that is left to the reader!

IRAN: This celebrated case (in UFO circles) was leaked even before the documents were obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. The general outline is well known to readers of UFO literature, but few have had access to the original dispatch. What follows is quoted directly from the originally-classified report, which was sent to a dozen security and high governmental agencies, as well as the president.

"At 0130 hrs on the 19th, the F-4 took off and proceeded to a point about 40 miles north of Teheran. Due to its brilliance, the object was easily visible from 70 miles away. As the F-4 approached a range of 25 nautical miles, the pilot lost all instrumentation and communications (UHF and Intercom). He broke off the intercept and headed back. When the F-4 turned away from the object and was apparently no longer a threat to it, the aircraft regained all instrumentation and communications. At 0140 hours, a second F-4 was launched and acquired a radar lock-on at 27 nautical miles...The size of the radar return was comparable to that of a 707 tanker. The visual size of the object was difficult to discern because of its intense brilliance...

"The object and the pursuing F-4 continued on a course to the south of Teheran when another brightly lighted object, estimated to be one-half to one-third the apparent size of the moon came out of the original object. This second object headed straight toward the F-4 at a very fast rate of speed [talk about Star Wars!]. The pilot attempted to fire an AIM-missile at the object but at that instant his weapons control panel went off and he lost all communications. At this point the pilot initiated a turn and a negative G-dive to get away [scarce wonder!]. The object fell with a trail at what appeared to be about three to four nautical miles. As he continued in his turn away from the primary object, the second object went to the inside of his turn and then returned to the primary object for a perfect rejoin[!]....

"Shortly after...another object appeared to come out of the other side of the primary object, going straight down at a great rate of speed. The F-4 crew watched the object approach the ground anticipating a large explosion [naturally!] but...this object appeared to come to rest gently on the earth and cast a very bright light over an area of about two-three kilometers...The crew continued to observe and mark that object's position....

(Continued on page 16)

BOOK REVIEW

UFOs and Outer Space Mysteries: A Sympathetic Critic's Report

by Mark Rodeghier

I have great respect for Jim Oberg and the task he has set for himself. Debunking someone's pet theories or explanations for unusual events is useful and rewarding, but can lead to much acrimony, as Oberg discovered in the course of his investigations (described in this book). Yet, he persists, and his writing is worth reading because of his generally excellent work and the insights it provides. Those, however, who buy this book expecting to discover Oberg's most recent demystifications of UFOs and Outer Space Mysteries will be disappointed. This volume. instead, is a compilation of articles and addresses which Oberg wrote for a wide range of publications, from SAGA's UFO Report to the Skeptical Inquirer. It suffers from the usual limitations that accompany such volumes: inclusion of material not apropos (such as the reference to OMNI readers on page 117); outdated information (**IUR** is, as you can see, no longer published in **Frontiers of Science**); and an Introduction that is not quite appropriate for the material in this book.

That said, I still found Oberg' s book interesting reading, partly because I had not had a chance to read these pieces when they originally appeared, but also because they remind us of the flaws in the past work of so many would-be UFO investigators. This book is not an examination of the UFO phenomenon as a whole or even a substantial portion of it; rather, it closely scrutinizes accounts of UFO sightings by astronauts, evidence of extraterrestrial artifacts on the moon, abduction cases, and a very few UFO hoaxes. It also includes chapters on the Sirius mystery (the much-discussed Dogon tribe in Africa and their perplexing astronomical legends), the 1908 Tunguska explosion in Siberia, the infamous "jellyfish UFO" of Petrozavodsk, and the intriguing question of why the Russians have attempted to conceal the existence of some former cosmonauts.

Despite the limited scope of this book — no serious consideration of trace cases, vehicle interference cases, photographic cases, or close encounters sans hypnosis, to name just a few omissions — it is an admirable effort. Oberg realizes the danger to the ill-informed, especially the young, of the publication of too many hoaxes or ill-conceived "research" which is later proved to be unqualified. As he writes, "some, however, will be intellectually scarred for life with the bitter disillusionment that comes with learning that...a book in which you had thought you had glimpsed the truth, was brazenly lying to you." That is, indeed, "Not funny" and "not harmless."

Oberg is at his best when he concentrates on demolishing evidence dealing with aspects of the space program. That is only to be expected: Oberg has worked for years at the Johnson Space Center in a position which has given him the expertise and knowledge of sources to ferret out the real explanation for astronaut sightings and sirnilar reports (though he correctly points out that NASA photos, transcriptions of astronaut conversations, and other necessary material are all a matter of public record). His description of the unravelling of George Leonard's book *Somebody Else is on the Moon* is a classic debunking effort. Leonard never inspected the original lunar photos, never reviewed current lunar research, and had no training in the physical sciences with which to understand what he was viewing or reading. All concerned and responsible UFO researchers should (and almost unanimously did) praise Oberg's work on this subject. The UFO community has also come to admit the truth of his conclusions regarding the astronaut sightings — there are none that cannot be explained in a mundane fashion — and the "jellyfish UFO" in the Soviet Union — a secret Russian space launch. The promulgation of pseudo-science reflects upon the credibility of all UFO investigators, not just those who, through ignorance or venality, propagate it widely.

There is another lesson for us in Oberg's book, an implicit one. Oberg, despite his obvious intelligence and investigative powers, has not yet (in either this book or his other published work) tackled the wide range of UFO reports, such as trace cases, daytime sightings by pilots, or the photographic evidence that does exist. I don't, however, see that as a failing, but rather as a self-imposed admission of his own limitations, one which we would all be wise to heed. Jim Oberg investigates those UFO reports that touch upon areas in which he is competent or a recognized expert. As for other reports, such as his discussion of close encounters — really abduction cases — in Chapter Two, he relies upon other experts.

Too often, well-intentioned UFO investigators have written about subjects of which they have no firm understanding. Moreover, they too often have investigated cases which required specialized knowledge they did not possess, the use of hypnosis in abduction cases being the prime example. Not everyone can investigate every UFO case, or at the least, every aspect of a case. Oberg knows this, and, hopefully, after reading the book, a few UFO proponents and investigators will come to the same conclusion.

Now, of course, Oberg concludes that there is no verified evidence for the existence of UFOs. He just might be correct, if by verified he means evidence other than witness testimony, as he suggests in the introduction. He, like all skeptics, calls for the application of very rigorous rules of evidence. Yet, I would be remiss if I didn't point out that, by these same rules, there is substantial circumstantial evidence for the existence of some type of phenomenon which we cannot, currently, explain. As one who has examined the original transcripts and talked at length with the case investigator, I find Oberg's brief reference to the Coyne case unconvincing, just as is his assertion (taken from Klass) that Lonnie Zamora and his boss hoaxed the Socorro event for the sake of publicity. (Anyone who wants to see a sample of the groundless nature of most of Klass's arguments, should read the Nov. 1983 issue of Fate magazine for Bruce Maccabee's review of Klass' latest book.)

Reasonable men can disagree on the validity of these reports as well as many others Oberg does not discuss. I, for one, come down on the side of skeptical curiosity; Oberg, on the side of sympathetic skeptic. What the uninformed reader will not get from this book, though, is an indication of the many interested scientists who were not taken in by stories of UFO bases on the moon and who did or still do believe the UFO phenomenon deserves serious scrutiny. These are men such as Haines, Maccabee, Saunders, Accetta, Hynek, Jacobs (if I may be allowed an historian), Petit in France, or James McDonald.

(Continued on page 15)

Letters continued

Dear Dr. Hynek:

I have just read Richard Sigismond's "Confrontation with Dr. Condon" in the Sept.-Oct. issue of the International UFO Reporter. I would like to submit the following addendum: two more confrontations.

Like Condon, I started with the conviction that UFOs were "nonsense" when I served on the CIA Robertson Committee in 1953. But after that I came to see that a small fraction of UFO reports were very difficult to explain. At Wesleyan University in Connecticut, I offered a course on UFOs which attracted many undergraduates, and taught them some astronomy.

Then, in 1968, Carl Sagan and I organized the AAAS [American Association for the Advancement of Science] Symposium on UFOs to be held in Boston in December, 1969. Condon did everything he could to prevent this meeting, even though we invited him to attend and defend his book, "A Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects," in which his Introduction contradicted the findings of his Committee members. At one point, he and an astronomer friend tried to persuade then Vice President Agnew to prevent the AAAS from sponsoring the UFO Symposium. But the Symposium took place and led to the book "UFOs...A Scientific Debate" edited by Sagan and Page (Cornell Univ. Press, 1972).

In that book, Condon's side was represented by Donald Menzel and William K. Hartmann; the other by J. Allen Hynek and James E. McDonald. The symposium was well-attended, but came to no firm conclusion on the reality of UFOs. Sociologists could not understand the longevity of the UFO syndrome [Ed. note: 14 years later the syndrome is still with us], and physical scientists could not explain all of the UFO reports. Condon kept silent at a distance.

Somewhat later, I was asked to write the article on UFOs for the Encyclopedia Britannica. After preparing a draft, I phoned Condon to check whether I had fully covered the data collected by his committee. This was the final confrontation. He shouted at me that he should write the article; then there was a bang, and silence. I am told that he threw the phone on the floor with such violence that it broke!

Thornton Page
NASA Johnson Space Center

(Ed note: As I have remarked elsewhere: "Science is not always what scientists do.") □

UFOs & Outer Space Mysteries: A Sympathetic Critic's Report — cont.

Neither is there mention of the serious efforts being made by GEPAN in France (which at the time this is written seems to be undergoing a reorganization).

Oberg would agree that a few such "skeptical believers" do exist, and he even wishes them the best of luck in their work. I would like to return the kind words. We need more sympathetic skeptics like Oberg if we are ever to "police" our own house. We also need those with knowledge in fields in which we may lack expertise, such as the space program, to lend us a hand in our work. Perhaps some day there can be fruitful collaborations between the skeptics and UFO investigators: the product of that effort can only improve upon the work currently being done.

So, I recommend reading this book, both for the sheer pleasure of its detective work and for its debunking of so many space-age myths. The next time someone talks with you about astronaut sightings, you'll know how to reply. Just don't believe everything Oberg has to say about the UFO phenomenon. No one has the last word on that subject. □

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CUFOS BULLETIN... (continued)

"While the F-4 was on a long final approach, the crew noticed another cylinger-shaped object (about the size of a T-bird at 10 M) with bright steady lights on each end of a flasher in the middle. When queried, the tower stated there was no other known traffic in the area. During the time that the object passed over the F-4, the tower did not have a visual on it but picked it up after the pilot told them to look between the mountains and the refinery.

"During daylight, the F-4 crew was taken out to the area in a helicopter where the object had apparently landed. Nothing was noticed at [that] spot, a dry lake bed, but as they circled off to the west of the area they picked up a very noticeable beeper signal [!]. At the point where the return was the loudest was a small house with a garden. They landed and asked the people within if they had noticed anything strange last night. The people talked about a loud noise and a very bright light like lightning. More information will be forwarded when it becomes available."

Attached to this report is a single, but very significant sheet. It is the "Defense Information Report Evaluation" form. Under "remarks" we find this: "An outstanding report. This case is a classic which meets all the criteria necessary for a valid study of a UFO phenomenon:

"a) The object was seen by multiple witnesses from different locations (i.e., Shemiran, Nehrabad, and the dry lake bed) and viewpoints (both).

"b) The credibility of many of the witnesses was high (an Air Force general, qualified aircrews, and experienced tower operators).

"c) Visual sightings were confirmed by radar.

"d) Similar electromagnetic effects (EME) were reported by three separate aircraft.

"e) There were physiological effects on some crew members (i.e., loss of night vision due to brightness of object).

"f) An inordinate amount of maneuverability was displayed by the UFOs."

Now, could anyone seriously doubt that after such a report, *no one* did any further investigating? It would be naive to the greatest degree to think that this dispatch, which went to the Secretary of State, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, the Commander of Naval Operations, the Chief of the Security Agency, the Secretary of Defense, the White House, and to six other top echelon security agencies of the U.S. government would merely have been shrugged off. Occurring well before the U.S. Embassy hostage situation in Teheran, one can well imagine that many types of inquiry, at various levels, were instituted through (and perhaps even beyond) the U.S. Embassy level. Could any government be so stupid (now, no remarks!) as to totally ignore such a report? Further, the person or persons responsible for the "Defense Information Report Evaluation," judging from the terminology used, is/were much more acquainted with the UFO phenomenon than the average citizen!

It must be remembered that the "UFO-related documents" so far released have been only those which the court deemed permissible to divulge. It is definitely known that the courts have ruled against releasing many other UFO-related documents on the grounds that National Security might be endangered thereby. One can only wonder what those "security endangering" contents are — and naturally, we do.

But from what has already been released, it is clear that:

A) The government and its security and defense agencies admit that the accounts we have dealt with were related by undeniably responsible and technically trained persons.

B) These accounts are closely related to the types of accounts civilians report and, hence, the implication is strong that these civilians in turn are also responsible and do not differ in ability to report from the military-trained personnel.

C) One can speculate on the reasons why far more official attention was not given to these very disturbing cases: one is that the answer is already known and so there is no need to duplicate effort; two, there was considerable "buck passing" even at the highest levels and no one assumed the responsibility for high level and tedious investigation; three, the situation is very complex and beyond the capabilities of the Air Force and other agencies to solve: hence, to preserve the image that the Air Force and other agencies are fully prepared and capable to protect us from whatever may threaten us from the air, it is easier to dismiss the problem than to face it and admit helplessness.

The fact remains: we do not know what really transpired at the SAC bases on those October and November nights in 1975 — and may never know. Neither do we know what really went on in Iran, Tunis, Algiers, Kuwait, and Peru.

The moral or thrust of all of the above is that we, the private sector, must do the job ourselves if we want answers. There are enough truly puzzling cases to provide ample investigative material for civilian scientists to attack the problem once they themselves become convinced that the problem is real. The cases described above ought to be a major stride in that direction. □

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